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MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

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January 17, 2006

Joseph T. Kelliher
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Kelliher:

I write to express my concerns relating to the tragic disaster at AmerenUE's Taum Sauk reservoir last December. As you know, this reservoir falls under your Commission's regulatory responsibility. My understanding is that federal law requires your Commission to inspect the reservoir annually, as well as have an outside contractor perform a more thorough inspection every five years. I further understand that officials from your Commission visited and inspected the reservoir in August, 2005, and did not report any problems.

Newspaper accounts report that evidence exists of erosion around the dam prior to the December tragedy. An investigation conducted by my Department of Natural Resources further supports that AmerenUE experienced overtopping of the reservoir well before the December disaster.

Due to this tragic event, the State suffered severe damage at Johnson's Shut-Ins and Park. Superintendent Jerry Toops and his family were injured. I am concerned that your Commission may not have provided adequate regulatory oversight of AmerenUE at the Taum Sauk reservoir. I call on you to have the appropriate personnel investigate whether your Commission failed to provide the regulatory oversight required by federal law.

If I or any of my executive departments can be of assistance, please let me know. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

Matt Blunt